

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant appreciates the courtesy shown by the Examiner during the telephone interview September 26, 2006. During the interview, Applicant discussed the Examiner's rejections in the Office Action mailed August 3, 2006. Specifically, Applicant addressed the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,146,434 to Scalfani et al. (the "434 Patent"). Applicant argued that this patent fails to teach the filter assembly of Applicant's claims 1-4 and 11-16. Although the Examiner was unable to point to where the '434 Patent teaches all of the limitations of claims 1-4 and 11-16, she refused to withdraw the rejection.

Additionally, Applicant argued that the '434 Patent in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,010,550 (the "550 Patent") to Song fails to teach or suggest the limitations of the claims 5-10. While no combination of the '434 and '550 Patents teaches or suggests all of the limitations of these claims, the Examiner unfortunately maintained the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the foregoing, Applicant hereby responds by traversing the Examiner's rejections to claims 1-16.